

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
CalFresh Program Guide

Work Incentive Nutrition Supplement Program

Number
63-420

Page
1 of 4

Background:

In June 2012, Senate Bill (SB) 1041 instituted the Work Incentive Nutrition Supplement (WINS). WINS is a food benefit for Non-Assistance CalFresh (NACF) households who meet certain eligibility criteria ([63-420.1](#)).

WINS is 100 percent TANF/ Maintenance of Effort (MOE) State funded food supplement that adds ten dollars (\$10) each month to the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) account of qualifying CalFresh households.

WINS is not a cash payment or a CalFresh benefit. The purpose of WINS is to increase the CalWORKs TANF Federal WPR ([CPG 10-002.A](#)).

California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) recipients are also eligible to receive the WINS benefit, but are funded with 100 percent non-MOE General Fund and will not be countable towards the Federal Work Participation Rate (WPR).

Policy:

63-420.1 WINS Eligible Recipients:

To be eligible for WINS a household's income must be under 200% of the FPL and;

- Be receiving CalFresh, but not CalWORKs or Tribal TANF;
 - If the household is receiving other programs such as Kin-Gap, Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), or Foster Care they could still be eligible to WINS
- Have a child under the age of 18, or under the age of 19 if the child is still in high school and will graduate before their 19th birthday ([CPG 42-100A](#)) ; and
- Have at least one [parent/ caretaker relative](#);
 - Receiving CalFresh,
 - Meeting the federal definition of a [Work Eligible Individual\(WEI\)](#),
 - Participating in a sufficient number of hours in work activities that meets federal TANF work participation hours.
- Provide acceptable documentation that the household meets the federal work requirements for [subsidized or unsubsidized employment](#) (employment verification). The requirements are as follows:
 - 20 hours per week for a single custodial parent/ caretaker relative with a child under the age of six;
 - 30 hours per week for a single custodial parent/ caretaker relative with all children over the age of six;
 - 35 hours per week, with at least 30 hours being [Core hours](#), for two parent/ caretaker relative families.

Note: If the verification provided does not include the hours worked, divide the [WEI's](#) wages by the sum of State minimum wage plus fifty cents ([State Minimum Wage](#) + \$0.50) to determine if they meet the hours requirement.

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
CalFresh Program Guide

Work Incentive Nutrition Supplement Program

Number

63-420

Page

2 of 4

63-420.2 WINS Benefit:

The WINS Benefit:

- Is **not** a cash payment.
- Can only be used to purchase food.
- Will not be counted as income in the CalFresh benefit determination.
- Will not be counted toward federal TANF 60-month time limit on aid, or the State's CalWORKs 48-month, or Welfare-to-Work 24 month time limits and will not trigger child support assignment requirements.
- Is not considered a Public Charge. Any individual receiving ten dollars a month (.33/ day) in WINS benefits cannot be said to be primarily dependent on this amount for subsistence, therefore it cannot be considered a public charge. ([63-154.1](#))
- Is automatically added to the qualifying household's EBT account. It will be issued at application, recertification, SAR 7 and/or when the household reports any changes and will continue on a monthly basis.
- The benefit will be issued between the 20th and the 24th of the month. The WINS Benefit will be issued prospectively and will continue until the household reports a change that makes them ineligible to WINS ([Actions When a Change is Reported](#)).

Note: The WINS benefit is not specific to a household member. Only one [WEI](#) needs to meet the requirements for the household to receive the WINS benefit. If two families are receiving benefits on the same CalFresh case, the household would only be eligible to receive one WINS benefit.

Zero Benefit Cases:

A household is not eligible to the WINS benefit when the CalFresh allotment is zero, as the case must be discontinued. ([63-302.4](#))

Expungement Regulations:

"Expungement" rules apply to the WINS benefit ([63-402.9](#)). Once expunged, the WINS benefits cannot be reinstated.

Repayment of Overissuances:

Unlike CalFresh benefits, the WINS benefits cannot be used to repay a claim (over-issuance). The WINS benefit is strictly a use-or-lose benefit. ([63-454.7](#))

63-420.3 Cases leaving CalWORKs:

Households no longer eligible to CalWORKs may be eligible to receive TCF. These households are granted up to 5 months of additional CalFresh benefits, after which, they must recertify to continue receiving regular CalFresh benefits. ([63-320](#) and [SN 13-03](#))

Households granted TCF must be evaluated for WINS eligibility. If current documentation of hours worked has not been received, verify work hours to determine eligibility to the WINS benefit. If the household's combined income exceeds 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), the household would not be eligible to receive the WINS benefit.

Procedure:

Actions at Intake:

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
CalFresh Program Guide

Work Incentive Nutrition Supplement Program

Number

63-420

Page

3 of 4

All CalFresh households will be evaluated for eligibility to the WINS benefit. If they are found eligible, the benefit will be added to the EBT account.

In the case of Expedited Services, the WINS benefit will be issued in accordance with [63-420.2](#). If the application is approved prior to that month's release date, the WINS benefit will be issued in the current month, otherwise, the WINS benefit will be released the next day after batch.

The approval notice will be issued to any household who meets the WINS criteria and is given the WINS benefit.

A denial notice is not required at initial application. A verbal notification of the denial is sufficient along with case comments documenting the communication. If the customer cannot be contacted, a denial notice would be appropriate.

Actions When a Change is Reported:

SAR Households:

When a SAR household makes a mid-period report (i.e., household composition changes, income changes), evaluate the household for WINS eligibility. The WINS benefit will be added or removed as appropriate.

If a SAR reporting household makes a voluntary mid-period report solely for the sake of receiving the WINS benefit, inform the household the report could decrease the household's benefits if the income increased since the last report.

Do not decrease benefits mid-period only to issue the WINS benefits, unless the report is considered verified upon receipt (VUR). ([63-284.3](#))

However, if a household voluntarily reports employment hours that fall below the federal requirement, the WINS benefit must be discontinued mid-period. If the change is reported prior to the issuance of the current month's issuance, discontinue the WINS benefit the month the customer reports the change. Otherwise, discontinue the WINS the month after the report ([63-420.2](#)). Any payments received in prior months in which the household was not eligible to WINS will **not** be considered an overissuance.

Change Reporting Households:

For reports made by a change reporting household, determine if the report is mandatory and results in a change in benefit allotment. ([63-261.2](#))

If a household reports employment hours that fall below the federal requirement, the WINS benefit must be discontinued and will take effect the month the customer reports the change if the WINS benefit has not been issued ([63-420.2](#)). Otherwise, it will be discontinued the month after the report. Any payments received in prior months in which the household was ineligible to WINS will not be considered an overissuance.

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
CalFresh Program Guide

Work Incentive Nutrition Supplement Program

Number
63-420

Page
4 of 4

Note: Timely notice is not a requirement for discontinuing the WINS benefit. Send adequate notice when a CalFresh household (SAR or Change Reporting) status changes and they are no longer eligible to the WINS benefit. ([63-303.1](#))

Actions for TCF Cases:

All households no longer eligible to CalWORKs will be evaluated for WINS.

If a household is eligible to TCF and the income exceeds the 200% FPL,

- Verbally notify the household and
- Document in case comments that the household is not eligible to WINS but remains eligible to TCF.

If a household is eligible to the WINS benefit, it will be issued throughout the TCF certification period.

Evaluate for the WINS benefit only at the beginning of the TCF period.

If a TCF household requests to be evaluated to add the WINS benefit before the end of the TCF certification period, inform the household they may either;

- Wait until the TCF period is over and then recertify for CalFresh; or
- Recertify at the time of the request. ([63-325](#))

Note: For those households no longer eligible to receive CalWORKs but are eligible to non-assistance CalFresh, follow the procedures in the sections [above](#).

Impacts:

Other Programs Affected: Refer to CalWORKs Program Guide [10-002.A](#)

References:

[WINS Definitions](#)
[WINS Processing Desk Aid](#)
[MPP 42-716](#)
[ACWDL](#)
[ACL 13-71](#)
[ACIN I-14-14, I-14-14E](#)
[ACIN I-27-15 \(Q&A\)](#)

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by 4/30/2018

Release Date:

04/20/2015